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FEB 26 2007

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A process for production of sodium borohydride; said process comprising steps of:
 - (a) combining a boric acid ester, $B(OR)_3$ and sodium aluminum hydride to produce sodium borohydride and $Al(OR)_3$; and
 - (b) combining the $Al(OR)_3$ produced in step (a) and sulfuric acid to produce alum and ROH; wherein R represents alkyl, aryl or aralkyl.
2. (Currently amended) The process of claim 1 further comprising a step of combining a boric acid ester precursor and an aliphatic or aromatic alcohol, ROH, to produce the boric acid ester, $B(OR)_3$ for use in step (a); and a step of recycling the ROH formed in step (b) to step (a) said step of combining a boric acid ester precursor and ROH.
3. (Original) The process of claim 2 in which in which the boric acid ester and the sodium aluminum hydride are combined in a hydrocarbon solvent.
4. (Original) The process of claim 3 in which R is alkyl having at least three carbon atoms, aryl or aralkyl.
5. (Original) The process of claim 4 in which R is phenyl.
6. (Currently amended) A process for production of sodium borohydride; said process comprising steps of:
 - (a) combining a boric acid ester precursor and an aliphatic or aromatic alcohol, ROH, to produce a boric acid ester, $B(OR)_3$;
 - (b) combining sodium, aluminum and hydrogen to produce sodium aluminum hydride;

(c) combining the boric acid ester and the sodium aluminum hydride to produce sodium borohydride and Al(OR)_3 ; and

(d) combining the Al(OR)_3 produced in step (c) and sulfuric acid to produce alum and ROH; wherein R represents alkyl, aryl or aralkyl.

7. (Original) The process of claim 6 in which the boric acid ester and the sodium aluminum hydride are combined in a hydrocarbon solvent.

8. (Original) The process of claim 7 in which R is alkyl having at least three carbon atoms, aryl or aralkyl.

9. (Currently amended) ~~The process of claim 8 in which~~ A process for production of sodium borohydride; said process comprising steps of:

(a) combining a boric acid ester precursor and an alcohol, ROH; wherein R represents alkyl having at least three carbon atoms, aryl or aralkyl; to produce a boric acid ester, B(OR)_3 ;

(b) combining sodium, aluminum and hydrogen to produce sodium aluminum hydride;

(c) combining in a hydrocarbon solvent the boric acid ester and the sodium aluminum hydride to produce sodium borohydride and Al(OR)_3 ; and

(d) combining the Al(OR)_3 produced in step (c) and sulfuric acid to produce alum and ROH;
wherein ROH produced in step (d) is recycled to step (a).

10. (Original) The process of claim 9 in which R is phenyl.